

The Worship of God
Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost
October 25, 2020

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come, this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Come, let us worship God.

Reflection

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God..." - James 1:5

"He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption." - 1 Corinthians 1:30

"Thus the effect of his gift of wisdom is to make us more humble, more joyful, more godly, more quick-sighted as to his will, more resolute in the doing of it and less troubled (not less sensitive, but less bewildered) than we were at the dark and painful things of which our life in this fallen world is full."
- J.I. Packer

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Psalm 103:1-5

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision/My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
Elizabeth Morrow, Flute and Phil Biedenbender, Piano

arr. Brant Adams

Choral Anthem of Praise

Blessed is He
Chancel Choir, Group Two

Kenney Potter

Prayer of Adoration

Confession of Sin

Proverbs 6:16-19

All: **Lord God Almighty,**
There are six things that you hate,
seven that are an abomination to you:

**haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood.
You detest a heart that devises wickedness, feet that run swiftly to evil,
and a false witness who breathes out lies.
You will judge the one who sows discord among brothers.
Lord, we humble ourselves before you, and plead for your mercy upon us, for Jesus' sake,
Amen.**

[In these quiet moments, we admit to God our sins and doubts, and ask Him by His Holy Spirit to cleanse us, forgive us, redirect our lives, and grant us renewed faith.

Assurance of Pardon

1 John 4:8

In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Hymn of Thanksgiving, #92

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

Pastoral Prayer (concluded by the Lord's Prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

James 3:13-18

Sermon

The Wisdom from Above

Rev. Matt Kuiken

Song of Response

His Mercy is More
Praise Team

Boswell

Benediction

Congregational Response

The Church's Doxology

CORONATION

Now, blessed be Jehovah, God, The God of Israel, Who only doeth wondrous works, In glory that excel, Who only doeth wondrous works, In glory that excel.

And blessed be His glorious Name To all eternity; The whole earth let His glory fill. Amen, so let it be; The whole earth let His glory fill. Amen, so let it be.

*Psalm 72/Oliver Holden—The Psalter, The Bible Songs and The ARP Psalter
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The sanctuary flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Nancy McGill for her birthday by her family, Trip, Chip and Laura McGill.

We extend love and sympathy to Timothy and Pamela Longbine upon the passing of Timothy's father on October 20, 2020.

If you have a physical or spiritual need, or a concern for the upcoming week, there are elders available to pray with you immediately following the service. The prayer room is located behind the piano area.

The Wisdom from Above

Rev. Matt Kuiken

James 3:13-18

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Questions for Discussion:

- What does it look like to be wise? How do we get wisdom and where does it come from?
- What does bitter jealousy and selfish ambition look like?
- Looking at verse 3:17, ponder the progression of wisdom from above.
- What do the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) have in common with wisdom?

Welcome to our church community. To receive the information listed below, please print clearly, tear off and place in the offering plate.

I would like more information about:

- Learning about Christianity
- Becoming a Church Member
- Sunday School Community
- Small Groups
- Serving on Sunday Mornings
- Outreach Ministries
- Women's Ministries Opportunities
- Men's Ministries Opportunities

Please add me to the following lists:

- Children's Ministry Newsletter
- Youth Ministry Parent Updates

- Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss

Name: _____

Email: _____

Spouse: _____

Spouse's Email: _____

Children: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Preferred Phone #: _____

This Week at First ARP

Sunday, October 25

- 9:00am Worship Service / Sunday School / Small Groups
- 10:30am Worship Service / Sunday School / Small Groups
- 11:45am Inquirer's Class - Fellowship Hall
- 6:30pm Youth Group (Grades 6-12) MAC

Monday, October 26

- 10:00am Morning Book Club - Welcome Center
- 11:30am Intercessory Prayer Time - Prayer Room
- 7:00pm Evening Book Club - Welcome Center
- 7:30pm AA Meeting - Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 27

- 8:30am Adult Coed Volleyball - MAC gym
- 10:00am Staff Meeting
- 1:15pm Community Women's Virtual Prayer Meeting
- 6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Wednesday, October 28

- 5:30pm Junior Choir - Choir Room
- 5:30pm Youth Choir - Sanctuary
- 6:00pm Bag supper for Junior and Youth Choirs
- 6:00pm Youth Open Gym
- 6:30pm Adult Electives
- 6:30pm Youth Study - MAC Patio
- 6:30pm Children's Ministries - F.R.O.G.
- 6:30pm Adult Choir, Group 1 - Sanctuary
- 7:00pm Adult Choir, Group 2 - Choir Room
- 7:30pm Praise Team - Sanctuary

Thursday, October 29

- 7:00am Men's Bible Study - Panera Bread
- 8:30am Adult Coed Volleyball - MAC gym
- 11:00am Saints & Scoundrels Bible Study (in person) Fellowship Hall
- 1:00pm Saints & Scoundrels Bible Study (Zoom)
- 1:00pm Pickleball (Adults & H.S.) - MAC gym
- 6:30pm Adult Basketball - MAC gym

Friday, October 30

- 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, October 31

- 9:00am Triumphant Basketball League - MAC gym

Fall 2020 Adult Sunday School & Small Groups

9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Elective Chapel/Zoom Topic: 1 Kings Teacher: Walt Windley Leader: Phil Painter	Elective Chapel Topic: 1 Kings Teacher: Cliff Olson Leader: David Smith
Foundations Room 306/Zoom Topic: Apostles' Creed Leader & Teacher: Mark Forbes	Cross Trainers Room 309/Zoom Topic: James Leader & Teacher: Randy Mumford
New Life Room 304/Zoom Topic: Romans Teacher: Randy Riley Leader: William & Julie Ratchford	Mustard Seed Room 204/Zoom Topic: Ruth Teacher: Tracy Thomason Leaders: Becky & Allen Waters
Small Group Room: Small Dining Room Topic: Sermon Discussion – James Leaders: Dyksterhouse/Cherry	Women of the Word Room 313/Zoom Topic: James Leaders & Teachers: Joanne, Sarah, Eve & Cathy
	Generations Room 304/Zoom Topic: What is Reformed Theology? Teacher: Dale Gunter Leader: Craig Curtis
	Small Group Room: 308 Topic: Sermon Discussion – James Leaders: Greeson/Dixon
	Small Group Room: Small Dining Room Topic: Sermon Discussion – James Leaders: Adam & Heather Forbes
Youth & Children	
Junior / Senior High Youth Space/Zoom Teacher: Shawn Hubers	Junior / Senior High Youth Space/Zoom Teacher: Truscott McLearn
Infant-Fifth Grade Children's Wing Leaders: Ellis Fisher, Micah Bomgaars, Ken Henry	Infant-Fifth Grade Children's Wing Leaders: Rob Parker, Chris McKay

Poinsettia Orders

Would You Like to Place POINSETTIAS in our church sanctuary during the Christmas Season in December?

If you would like to place a Poinsettia in our sanctuary during the Christmas Season, please see the following timeline and be on the lookout for specific announcements about the Poinsettias in the very near future.

- Poinsettias will cost \$13.50 per flower this year. They are each wrapped in foil with a beautiful bow.
- Poinsettia sale will go from: Friday, November 1, 2020 through Monday, November 23, 2020 (12 noon).
- Please see the form at right so that you may plan to whom you wish to honor or give in memory for – this form will also be on our website and in The Link, as well as in the bulletin for a few weeks during November. You will also receive an email with the form attached.
- Your payment must be turned in with your paper form. Please put your money and the form in an envelope and turn it in at the church office, mail it to the church office, give to Trip McGill, or put it in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. Please, just make sure your check/money is with your form in an envelope. **You may NOT order or pay for Poinsettias online.**
- Instructions for forms and payment will be on the website during November as well as in the bulletin for a couple of weeks.
- Please take this time to remember those who have gone before us and give in memory and/or in honor of someone.
- Our services starting December 13, 2020 and through Christmas Eve will be beautiful with our Poinsettia tree with these special gifts in memory or honor of someone, and especially all given to the Glory of our great God.
- Poinsettias will need to be picked up after the 7pm Christmas Eve Service.



In Memory Of:

Given By:

In Honor Of:

Given By:

The cost is \$13.50 per plant (Payment must accompany order form in an envelope with your name on it.)

Monday, November 23rd is the LAST DAY that orders will be accepted. It takes 100 poinsettias to fill our poinsettia tree. Each plant will represent one person or couple being honored or remembered.

Order placed by: _____

Associate Pastor Search Committee

The Associate Pastor search is underway. Please be in prayer for this process and for the search team. If you have input to share, please contact one of the team members: Butch Boyd, Ellis Fisher, Ken Henry, Shawn Hubers, Anna Kucera, Katie Morrow or Donna Tyree by November 3.

Operation Christmas Child 2020

You are invited to take part in OCC which began here at First ARP on Oct. 9. For those interested in participating, there are shoeboxes available in the Welcome Center. Please return them to First ARP by Friday, Nov. 13. The Celebration of OCC will be on Sun., Nov. 15. [Suggestions of What to Include](#); [How to Pack your Shoebox](#); [Shoeboxes Can Be Packed Online](#) - If you use the online feature, pls email Pat Morrow at npmorrow70@gmail.com to let him know. If you have questions or need assistance with pickup/delivery, please contact Pat Morrow (704-616-8403) or Chris Stowe (704-616-1820).

Neighborhood Ministry

Orphan Sunday - Mark your calendars!! November 8th is Orphan Sunday. We will be highlighting our newest ministry, Gaston Foster Closet.

Women's Ministries

2020 Thanksgiving Devotionals are Here!

Pick up a copy at either service today or during the week at the Reception Desk. If you are unable to get to the church, call Betsy (704-718-0026) to request a copy.

October Missions Focus - Please bring blankets/sleeping bags to Betsy's office for this year's Christmas Store.

Youth Ministry

Middle School Bonclarken Retreat, Nov. 13-15

The cost is \$60. Email Amanda to register. arankin@firstarpchurch.org

Childrens Ministries

This Week's F.R.O.G. Family Night Will Include a Treat Trail! - Following an abbreviated time with Theo ("Light Unto My Path"), families will follow a Treat Trail down the First Floor Hall of the Children's Ministry building (socially distanced, of course!). Enjoy finding candy and playing simple festival games.

Sunday, November 1 - is another Super Smile Sunday! Send \$5.00 with your children to Sunday Morning 2x2!

We Are Having Fun! - over on our Children's Ministry Website! Take a virtual visit to the Pumpkin Patch; find event pictures, games, crafts, announcements and more: <https://bit.ly/FARPChilWeb>.

Music Ministries

Stock the Freezer - As you know, our Music Ministry Team is having a Stock the Freezer sale. Please see below how you can help, when you will receive more information, and when the sale will be held!

We THANK YOU so much for helping us with this sale and helping to provide a way for our choir members (children, youth & adult) to attend the Bonclarken Music Conference this summer.

You should have received an email with info on how to volunteer to cook or bake items for the sale. If you have questions, please contact Trip McGill at (tripmcgill@gmail.com) or 704.616.4539.

For those who we hope will help us by purchasing these tasty dishes, you will receive an email with the details in the next week or so. In the meantime, [here is our timeline](#):

By Nov. 4: Volunteers sign up via Google form: bit.ly/FirstARPStocktheFreezer

Sundays: November 1 or November 8:

Volunteers to cook, pick up your empty casserole pans from Trip or Phil in the Music Office behind the pulpit area.

Sunday, Nov. 15 (8 – 8:15am/10 -10:15am) or Wednesday, Nov. 18 (9am – 12noon)

Volunteers, deliver your prepared casserole, baked pie, or cake to the church kitchen.

November 6 – 14, 2020 – Those who wish to purchase casseroles and baked items should reserve them through this Google form bit.ly/StocktheFreezerOrderForm (this link will not be active until Nov. 6)

November 21 or 22, 2020 - bring your check and pick up your reserved items.

Weekly Sports Ministries

Come Join Us!

Adult Coed Volleyball

Tue. & Thu., 8:30-10:30am, MAC Gym

Adult Basketball

Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm, MAC Gym

Adult & High School Pickleball

Thursdays, 1-4pm, MAC Gym

Prayer Concerns

- **All Missionaries** – ministry and safety
- **Myra Ballard** (sister of Cheryl Belk and sister-in-law of Leanne Stowe) - broken leg; recovering from first surgery; can't walk on it for 12 weeks; will also need a second surgery
- **Gene Barber** - recovering from stroke on 10/19; has begun rehab in Mt. Holly
- **Olivia Bloomfield** - health concerns
- **Ann Cain** – under Hospice care
- **Tammy Cherry** - recovering from knee replacement surgery on 10/19
- **John Connor's brother & sister-in-law** - both have Covid; sister-in-law also has double pneumonia
- **Mark Couture** – recovering from knee surgery; has had a post-surgery blood clot in his leg
- **Carlton Dixon** - at home improving
- **Joe Erwin** – receiving treatment for esophageal cancer
- **Dwayne Fink** – health concerns
- **Davis Fisher (grandson of Ellis & Meg)** - has Covid again for the second time
- **Adam Forbes** - Ramsay Hunt Syndrome (shingles in his ear that affects facial nerves)
- **Haiti** – pray for Haiti generally and our sister church, Source Baptiste
- **Mike Haley** – rare, non-aggressive cancer; no treatments now, scans every 6 months
- **Greg Hall (Tricia Dukes' son-in-law) and wife, Sandi** – Greg diagnosed with ALS
- **Timothy & Pamela Longbine** - passing of Timothy's father on 10/20
- **Mary Ann Lore** - under Hospice care
- **Susan Martello & daughter, Alexandra (Leonard & Marlene Walls' daughter & granddaughter)** - Susan has Covid and Alexandra is scheduled for cochlear implant surgery
- **Anne McAllister's mother, Inez Morgan** – under Hospice care
- **Gay McKeown (Trey McKeown's mother)** – kidney failure, on dialysis
- **Jenny Morrow** - recovering from broken ankle
- **Operation Christmas Child program**
- **Mickey Smith** - clear lung scans
- **Jo Ann Sytz** - health concerns
- **Audrey Thornton** - had a fall and has 2 cracked bones, with a 6-8 week recovery period
- **Matt Tift (Lisa Johnson's son-in-law)** - seizures have returned after 5 months
- **Tari Williamson** - back pain

Birthdays

Bob Beckett—10/25
 Ann Cain—10/25
 Madeline Jarrett—10/25
 Ray Jones—10/25
 Micah Bomgaars—10/26
 Jeff Fawcett—10/26
 Syl Potter—10/27
 Anna Williams—10/27
 Daniel Bledsoe—10/28
 Phil Eller—10/28
 Elizabeth Hendrix—10/28
 Jim Crisp—10/30
 Ben Jordan—10/30
 Guyer Lewis—10/31
 Cora Kuiken—11/1

Elizabeth Morrow—11/1
 Ann Barrett—11/2
 Greta Phillips—11/2
 Carlos Garcia—11/2
 Bonnie McCall—11/3
 John David Morris—11/3
 Lisa Walsburger—11/3
 Madison Duffie—11/4
 Rachel Morrow—11/5
 Curt Older—11/5
 Fred Caldwell—11/6
 Ian Morrison—11/6
 Jacob Shell—11/6
 Patty Birt—11/7
 Tammy Hubbard—11/7
 Mac Crouch—11/8
 William Kirkpatrick—11/8

Financial Update

	<u>As of 9/30/20</u>
Revenues	\$1,067,713.71
Expenses	\$1,057,342.00
Net surplus (deficit)	\$ <u>10,371.71</u>

Wedding Anniversaries

Tripp & Leigh White—10/25
 Matthew & Lillian Stowe Smith—11/4
 Brice & Rebecca Maney—11/7/92
 Joey & Kristin Hedrick—11/8
 Dale & Debra Starnes—11/13
 Jason & Denise Eckler—11/15
 Zack & Penelope Stroupe—11/19

SESSION

Matt Kuiken, Moderator

Josh Hjermvick, Vice Moderator

Gene Martin, Clerk

2020
Micah Bomgaars
Ellis Fisher
Gene Martin
Truscott McLearn
Gary Miller

2021
John Connor
Ken Henry
Morris Keeter
David W. Smith, III
Joe Summerville

2022
Fred Caldwell
Vincent Cherry
Andy Dyksterhouse
Walter Payne
Bob Rouse

2023
Artie Cooper
Ron Kirkpatrick
Randy Mumford
Phil Painter
David Smith

ELDERS EMERITUS

Bob Barnhill
Tom Campbell
Maurice Canaday
Charles Ferguson
Lin Hollowell

Brice Huffstetler
Tete Pearson
Bob Sytz
Joe West
Oscar Whitescarver

DIACONATE

2020
Matt Adams
Tom Balsom
Gene Barber
Robert Heussy
Frank Hinson
Chris McKay

2021
Brian Cerilli
Mike Harwell
Shawn Hubers
David Jansen
Rob Parker
Greg Starnes

2022
Butch Boyd
Tim Daniels
Billy Israel
Mark Miele
Richard Pearson
William Ratchford
Jeff Stowe

TRUSTEES

2020
Bob Barnhill

2021
Wade Huss

2022
Charles Ferguson

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Rick Craig.....Chairman
Gene Martin.....Secretary
Jerry Best.....Treasurer

FIRST ARP WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Carol Hayes.....Advisor
Jan Adams.....Advisor Elect
Gayle Goodrich.....Past Advisor
Bonnie Jansen.....Secretary
Alice Auten.....Treasurer

MINISTERS

The members of this church family who in serving their Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, extend Deep Roots into God's Word and Wide Reach into God's World.

STAFF

Matt Kuiken.....Senior Pastor.....mkuiken@firstarpchurch.org
Josh Hjermvick.....Associate Pastor of Youth and Families.....jhjermvick@firstarpchurch.org
Tammy Baker (704-271-4395).....Financial Secretary.....tbaker@firstarpchurch.org
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Julie Clark.....Interim Assistant Director of Children's Ministry.....jclark@firstarpchurch.org
Betsy Forbes.....Director of Women's Ministries.....bforbes@firstarpchurch.org
Mark Forbes.....Church Planting Intern.....mforbes@firstarpchurch.org
Barbie Harwell (704-472-0508).....Church Hostess.....harwellx6@gmail.com
Wanda Henderson (704-271-4398).....Church Secretary.....whenderson@firstarpchurch.org
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Rebecca Maney (704-271-4409).....Director of Children's Ministry.....rmaney@firstarpchurch.org
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Milette Oden.....Director of Children's Music Ministry.....unacordanc@gmail.com
Wes Phillips (980-522-8671).....Christway Counseling.....wesleystcottphillips@gmail.com
Amanda Rankin.....Female Youth Assistant.....arankin@firstarpchurch.org
Mercede Romero.....Activities Coordinator.....mromero@firstarpchurch.org
Mike Watson.....Maintenance Supervisor.....micheal_watson66@yahoo.com
Tari Williamson.....Director of Christian Education and Discipleship.....tarimarie.w@gmail.com



Prayer Needs

Prayer Requests:

>Welcome Guests!

Thank you for taking this opportunity to worship with us today. We hope that it was an encouragement to you. It was a privilege to have you with us, and we hope you felt welcome here. If you have any questions about a relationship with Jesus, or about getting connected to First ARP Church, please fill out the connect card on the next page, tear it off, and put it in the offering plate. We would love to follow up with you. If there is anything that you would like the pastors of First ARP to pray for, we would be honored to do that as well.

The mission of our church is to develop deep roots into God’s word, the Bible, and develop a wide reach into God’s world, by sharing Jesus in word and deed, that all would come to know and glorify God. Please know that you are always welcome to join us. Thanks again for joining us today, and may the Lord bless you.

Pastor Matt Kuiken

Prayer of Belief:

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment and offering forgiveness. I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior. Amen.

(If you are saying this prayer for the first time today, please share with a church officer up front, or let one of the pastors know.)